

Recommendation 1: Transmission Planning Involvement

1) RETI Issue Area

Transmission Planning Involvement

2) Goals

Influencing or supporting transmission project development to: 1) facilitate all permit approvals and 2) achieve consensus stakeholder support for construction of specific transmission projects.

3) Activity

RETI stakeholders intend to be active, informed and influential participants in the electric transmission planning process in California. RETI will seek to gain consensus among its stakeholders to support the development of transmission infrastructure necessary to achieve the state's energy policy goals. RETI will work as closely as possible with transmission planning entities to understand and influence key transmission study assumptions and shape project plans.

4) Participants

RETI transmission planning working group or groups either by region, specific project or planning entity and transmission development support working group

5) Schedule and Deliverables

Schedule to be set consistent with CAISO and CTPG planning schedules. The CAISO annual planning process calls for review of study results and approval of projects for its 2010 transmission plan from November 2009 through February 2010. The study review will include the RETI-related studies and recommendations developed by the CAISO. RETI team members should participate in targeted meetings with CAISO staff and formal stakeholder meetings regarding the specific transmission projects included in the RETI Phase 2A report (i.e. C3ET project stakeholder meetings) and the regional stakeholder meetings. RETI should also participate in targeted meetings proposed in conjunction with CTPG as that process comes up to speed and formal stakeholder meetings as announced.

Deliverables will include recommendations to the SSC regarding RETI support for projects proposed for development or approval by the planning entities.

6) Detailed description of activity

- RETI actively reviews and comments on load forecast assumptions including the effects of energy efficiency, demand response programs and distributed resources that are used as input to the planning studies. RETI report assumptions can be used as a reference point initially but other input can be used over time (i.e. CEC demand forecasts, updated RETI analyses, etc.). RETI may propose alternative demand forecast scenarios to be considered by the planning entity that reflect RETI's perspective.
- RETI actively reviews and comments on generation dispatch and new generation development assumptions that are used as input to the planning studies. RETI will

understand key assumptions related to generation dispatch for existing resources, treatment of new generation development and advocate for assumptions that represent RETI's perspective. RETI report assumptions and analysis can be used as a reference point initially but other input used over time (i.e. CEC forecasts, Long Term Plan results, WECC base cases, CAISO/POU interconnection studies, responses to utility Requests for Offers, updated RETI resource analyses, etc.). RETI reviews and comments on the inputs from other regional planning processes that are considered in the California planning studies (i.e. WREZ, WECC-TEPPC).

- RETI suggests other scenarios be developed and used by the transmission planning entities to consider variations on the recommended case inputs to test the transmission solutions or to reflect RETI's perspective. The scenarios can involve different demand and generation inputs in combination.
- RETI reviews, comments on and provides recommendations relative to planning results including potential solutions (specific transmission projects) to meet the identified needs and to address any problems identified. This review would include any reliability, economic or RPS analysis completed as part of the process.
- RETI shares with its other stakeholders, its participation, findings and recommendations with respect to the processes, assumptions and recommended transmission solutions identified in the CAISO, POU and CTPG planning processes.
- RETI reviews, comments on and provides recommendations relative to preliminary plans of service (i.e. size of the proposed project, electrical connection points along the route, timing, etc.) and potential siting options for identified transmission projects before detailed development work begins (i.e. identifies areas to avoid or areas that are more acceptable, locations for new substations, use of existing or established rights-of-way or corridors versus green field routes, etc.). In developing its recommendations RETI seeks to understand all of the objectives and benefits of the proposed project and makes its recommendations based on these objectives and benefits.
- RETI consults with the transmission planning entities on stakeholder outreach and, depending on the needs of the specific planning process or project, may play an active role in facilitating or supporting that outreach.

Near-term Transmission Upgrades

1) RETI Issue Area

Identify Near-Term Transmission Projects or Actions to Provide Access to Renewable Resources without Requiring Major New Transmission Upgrades

2) Goals

RETI needs to have assurances from planning entities that proposals for major new transmission projects are necessary and that all reasonable transmission alternatives including smaller scale, lower cost projects to access renewable resources have been implemented.

3) Activity

RETI requests that the CAISO and, in the future, CTPG identify the amount of renewable resources that can be accessed through near-term, lower cost transmission projects including transformer upgrades, short term special protection schemes and operating procedures based on its interconnection study process. .

4) Participants

RETI working groups either by region or planning entity

5) Schedule and Deliverables

The most reasonable expectation for the timing of a response to this request from the CAISO is after it has completed its Phase 2 interconnection studies that will begin in December 2009. The requested report will be developed consistent with the CAISO's generator interconnection tariff requirements (i.e. queuing requirements).

Deliverables will include recommendations to the SSC regarding RETI support for projects proposed.

6) Detailed description of activity

- Request that the CAISO and, in the future, CTPG identify the amount of renewable resources that can be accessed through near-term, lower cost transmission projects including transformer upgrades, short term special protection schemes and operating procedures based on its interconnection study process.
- Request the CAISO to update its assessment of the availability of renewable resources as part of its ongoing generator interconnection study process.
- Request the CAISO and PTOs to identify near term projects as they conduct transmission planning studies or generator interconnection studies and includes these projects in its recommendations to the CAISO or submits these projects in the CAISO annual request window.
- Request POUs that are not PTOs identify near term projects in their studies and develop these projects or seek participation by others to develop these projects.

Transmission Corridor Designation

1) RETI Issue Area

CEC Transmission Corridor Designation

2) Goals

Streamline future permitting of transmission lines through programmatic review of corridors that appear today as likely to be needed within 10-20 years to access and deliver renewable generation.

3) Activity

Assess candidate corridors, initiate discussions with likely (non-CEC) proponents, and report results and a recommendation of 2-3 priority corridors to the CEC. If no project proponent files an application for the corridor, the CEC may initiate designation on its own motion.

4) Participants

Voluntary RETI working group, composed of SSC members and other interested participants, who report to and draft recommendations for the SSC. The SSC would hold meetings to get public input on proposals, as well. The SSC will also request regular updates on transmission corridor designation from the CEC.

5) Schedule and Deliverables

The RETI SSC would aim to identify priority corridors by June 2010.

December 2009 – Convene working group

February 2010 – Present draft recommendations – priority line segments and proposed corridors – to SSC

March 2010 – Public meetings and discussions with potential proponents

April 2010 – Revised recommendations to SSC

June 2010 – Final recommendations to CEC

6) Detailed description of activity

SB 1059 (Escutia and Morrow, Chapter 638, Statutes of 2006) provided the CEC with authority to designate, on its own initiative or in response to an application, a corridor for future transmission line use. Although not binding on future land use decisions, this designation involves the completion of programmatic environmental review that could streamline the later completion of CEQA review associated with project-specific applications for transmission siting.

In its Phase 2A report the RETI SSC recommended that: *“The California Energy Commission...should begin immediately to consider the RETI transmission line segments to determine which are the best candidates for corridor designation... Designated corridors should include likely routes for Renewable Foundation lines, Renewable Delivery lines, Renewable Collector lines, and potential expansion of existing rights-of-way.”*

At the September 16, 2009 meeting of the RETI SSC, CEC staff indicated that the CEC has not yet received any applications for corridor designation and does not anticipate proposing corridors for designation on its own initiative. It thus appears that there is no immediate plan for designation of corridors that could be useful to the realization of key components of RETI's conceptual plan.

RETI would form an SSC working group to prepare recommendations for corridor designation for submittal to the CEC, by June 2010. Consistent with recommendation #7 from RETI's Phase 2A Report, the prioritized corridors shall include "likely routes for Renewable Foundation lines, Renewable Delivery lines, Renewable Collector lines, and potential expansion of existing rights-of-way". The recommendations may exclude those lines that have already been identified as a priority for immediate detailed planning in 2010 by the California ISO or a municipal utility, since such lines should soon be the subject of project-specific, rather than programmatic environmental review. In general, the recommendations should not include lines that would be expected to enter the permitting process before 2013. The recommendations shall be subject to final review and approval by the SSC, and shall be the subject of at least one PSG meeting before final SSC approval.